Message Text

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SECDEF FOR OASD I&L (MR. CUFFE); JCS FOR J-4 (LTG CASEY)

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TAGS MARR NATO
SUBJECT MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP ON A NATO CONSUMER
LOGISTICS FORUM, IN BRUSSELS, 19 APRIL 1977

REFS (A) AC/300-WP/3; (B) AC/300-DS/3; (C) USNATO 0553, 011701Z FEB 77; (D) USNATO 1988, 061500Z APR 77

SUMMARY: AD HOC WORKING GROUP SESSION ON 19 APRIL 1977 DISCUSSED INTERNATIONAL STAFF PAPER (REF A) IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFINE NATIONAL POSITIONS. FRG AND BELGIAN OPPOSITION TO CIVIL SESSION OF SENIOR NATO LOGISTICIANS CONFERENCE HAD DISAPPEARED ON THE BASIS OF THE REPORT, WHICH CLOSELY REFLECTED COMPROMISE PROPOSED AT JANUARY MEETING BY UK REP. ON THE BASIS OF LATEST INSTRUCTIONS, HOWEVER, CONFIDENTIAL

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UK REP (LEGG) COULD NOT ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE PAPER CONCERNING THE DUALITY OF MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SESSIONS OF THE FORUM, NOR COULD HE ACCEPT THE IDEA OF SEPARATE CHAIRMEN AND REPORTING CHANNELS FOR THE MILITARY COMMITTEE AND FOR THE NAC/DPC. ALL OTHER NATIONS COULD ACCEPT THE RECOMMENDATIONS IN REF A WITH VARIOUS DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM. CHAIRMAN LABERGE CONCLUDED THAT THE UK WAS ISOLATED IN OPPOSITION TO THE PROPOSAL WHICH THEY HAD MADE IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, AND REQUESTED THAT UK REP REQUEST NEW INSTRUCTIONS FROM

LONDON. IN THE MEANTIME, THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF WILL DRAFT NEW VERSION OF THE TERMS OF REFERENCE (ANNEX III, REF A) IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE INFERENCE THEREIN THAT THE TWO SESSIONS ACTUALLY CONSTITUTE TWO DIFFERENT ORGANIZATIONS. LABERGE AGREED THAT THE NEW VERSION SHOULD ACCENTUATE THE UNIQUENESS OF THE SINGLE ORGANIZATION WHILE PRESERVING THE DUALITY OF THE MILITARY AND CIVILIAN SESSIONS. HE EXPECTS TO CIRCULATE THE NEW DRAFT WITHIN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS. END SUMMARY.

- 1. PRIOR TO CONSIDERATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF
 PROPOSAL, LABERGE REQUESTED APPROVAL OF THE
 DECISION SHEET OF THE LAST MEETING (REF B). TURKISH
 REP (GOKEIGDEM), REVERSING PREVIOUS POSITION, REQUESTED
 THAT TURKEY BE SHOWN AS SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF
 A NEW FORUM ON THE CIVIL SIDE OF NATO FOR CONSIDERATION
 OF CONSUMER LOGISTICS. THE DECISION SHEET WAS APPROVED AS AMENDED.
- 2. LABERGE OUTLINED THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF PROPOSAL IN REF A, INDICATING THAT IT HAD BEEN THOROUGHLY COORDINATED THROUGH VARIOUS INTERNATIONAL STAFF SECTIONS AS WELL AS THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL MILITARY STAFF. HE BELIEVED IT CONCLUDED ON A COMPROMISE WHICH REFLECTED NONE OF THE ORIGINAL NATO POSITIONS, BUT RATHER A MID-POINT WHICH WOULD ACCOMMODATE THE WISHES OF NATIONS WHO BELIEVED THERE WAS A NEED FOR ADDITIONAL LOGISTICS INVOLVEMENT WITHIN NATO, CONFIDENTIAL

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AS WELL AS THE CONCERN OF OTHER NATIONS THAT NO ADDITIONAL BODIES SHOULD BE CREATED WITHOUT AN OVERRIDING NEED THEREFOR. HE THEN INVITED COMMENTS ON THE PRESENTATION OF THE DOCUMENT, AS WELL AS ON ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

- 3. THROUGH PREVIOUS ARRANGEMENT, US REP (LOVELAND)
 OPENED THE DISCUSSION WITH US SUPPORT FOR THE DOCUMENT AS
 A WHOLE AND FOR ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, POINTING OUT THAT THE
 SOLUTION WAS A COMPROMISE WHICH DID NOT FAVOR THE EXTREME
 POSITIONS BUT RATHER FOLLOWED THE SOLOMONIC PROPOSAL BY
 THE UK. THE BELIGIAN REP (QUANIERS) AGREED THAT THE CURRENT PROPOSAL
 DID INDEED RESOLVE MOST OF THE DOUBTS WHICH HE HAD PREVIOUSLY HAD, BUT THAT HE CONTINUED TO HAVE SOME DIFFICULTY
 WITH THE TERMS OF REFERNCE, WHICH SEEMED TO DEFINE THE
 TWO SESSIONS IN A WAY TO MAKE THEM PRACTICALLY TWO
 SEPARATE ORGANIZATIONS. HE THOUGHT, HOWEVER, THAT MINOR
 DRAFTING CHANGES COULD RESOLVE THIS PROBLEM. THE
 ITALIAN (CAMPANA) AND FRG (GLATT) REPS AGREED WITH THE
 BELGIAN POSITION.
- 4. THE FRENCH REP (DE MAS LATRIE), RECALLING HIS
 POSITION AT EARLIER MEETINGS, INDICATED THAT FRANCE WOULD
 NOT AT THIS TIME PARTICIPATE IN A CONSUMER LOGISTICS FORUM
 AT EITHER MILITARY OR CIVIL LEVEL, BUT DOES NOT OPPOSE

THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DOCUMENT. ON A PERSONAL BASIS, HE INDICATED THAT THERE WAS A POSSIBILITY FOR A LATER CHANGE IN THE FRENCH POSITION CONCERNING PARTICIPATION. THE GREEK (ANDRETTAKIS) AND NORWEGIAN (VEDELD) REPS COULD AGREE WITH THE PAPER AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS.

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5. THE UK REP INDICATED THAT HE HAD JUST RECEIVED INSTRUCTIONS, BASED ON A MEETING IN LONDON THE PREVIOUS DAY, WHICH REQUIRED HIM TO TAKE A POSITION OPPOSITE TO THAT WHICH UK REPS HAD HAD IN THE PAST. WHILE HE COULD AGREE TO THE PAPER AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, THIS AGREEMENT WAS BASED ON PARA 10(C) (5) (I) REQUIRING A SINGLE SESSION OF A JOINT GROUP ON THE MODEL OF THE NCCDPC, TO THE EXCLU-SION OF THE PROPOSAL IN PARA 10(C)(5)(II), WHEREIN THE CONFERENCE WOULD MEET IN SEPARATE MILITARY AND CIVIL SESSIONS. HIS INSTRUCTIONS WERE FORMAL ON THIS POINT AND HE COULD NOT COMPROMISE WITHOUT FURTHER GUIDANCE FROM LONDON. THE CANADIAN REP (SEXSMITH) INDICATED HIS PRE-FERENCE FOR THE NEW UK POSITION, BUT HE COULD ACCEPT EITHER ALTERNATIVE. THE BELIGAN REP AGREED THAT THE UK SOLUTION WOULD RESOLVE THE SMALL PROBLEMS TO WHICH CONFIDENTIAL

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HE HAD REFERRED EARLIER.

6. US REP NOTED THAT ESPOUSAL OF THE UK POSITION WOULD

AMOUNT TO ACCEPTANCE OF THE SITUATION AS IT STOOD NOW WITH A SENIOR NATO MILITARY LOGISTICIANS CONFERENCE (SNMLC) SIMPLY EXPANDED BY THE ADDITION OF CIVIL MEMBERS FOR THOSE COUNTRIES WHICH WISH TO DO SO. HE INDICATED THAT THE INTERNAIONAL STAFF PROPOSAL HAD ORIGINALLY BEEN A DIFFICULT ONE FOR US MILITARY AUTHORITIES, UNTIL IT WAS MADE CLEAR THAT THE TWO SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE WOULD BE SEPARATE, ALLOWING THE MILITARY LOGISTICIANS TO RESOLVE THEIR PROBLEMS AS THEY SAW FIT. AND REFERRING ONLY THOSE PROBLEMS WHICH COULD NOT BE RESOLVED BY THE MILITARY TO THE CIVILIAN POLICY MAKERS. A SINGLE SESSION WOULD NOT THEREFORE RESOLVE THE US PROBLEM WITH THE CURRENT ORGANIZATION. THE NETERLANDS REP (DE ROOY) AGREED WITH THE US POSITION AND NOTED THAT THE UK SOLUTION WOULD NEGATE ALL OF THE WORK WHICH HAD BEEN DONE THUS FAR BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. HE COULD ONLY AGREE TO THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF PROPOSAL ON THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE CONFERENCE WOULD MEET IN SEPARATE (THOUGH PERHAPS CONSECUTIVE) SESSIONS.

- 7. LABERGE NOTED THAT ALL NATIONS WHICH HAD EXPRESSED AN OPINION COULD ACCEPT THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF DOCUMENT AND ITS RECOMMENDATIONS, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF ENTHUSIASM, EXCEPT THE UK UPON WHOSE EARLIER POSITION THE DOCUMENT HAD BEEN BASED. THE UK REP AGREED THAT THAT APPEARED TO BE THE CASE, AND INDICATED (OFF THE RECORD) THAT HE WOULD BE HAPPY TO SUBMIT AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP INVITATION TO LONDON TO RE-EXAMINE THE NEW UK POSITION.
- 8. IN RESPONSE TO THE SEVERAL REPS WHO HAD INDICATED DIFFICULTY WITH THE TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE NEW GROUP, LABERGE AGREED TO REDRAFT ANNEX III WITH THE HELP FO KEY DELEGATIONS. HE EXPECTED TO BE ABLE TO CIRCULATE A CONFIDENTIAL

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NEW PAPER WITHIN THREE OR FOUR WEEKS IN PREPARATION FOR THE NEXT AND PERHAPS LAST MEETING OF THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP. THE FRG REP INDICATED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVED IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO REQUEST THE SENIOR NATO MILITARY LOGISTICIANS CONFERENCE TO REVIEW THE INTERNATIONAL STAFF PROPOSAL, AND PARTICULARLY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE, DURING THEIR MEETING IN THE WEEK OF 25 APRIL. THE UK REP OBJECTED TO REFERREL OF THE DOCUMENT TO THE MILITARY LOGISTICIANS UNTIL IT HAD BEEN AGREED BY THE AD HOC WORKING GROUP, BUT THE FRG REP INDICATED THAT HIS MILITARY LOGISTICIAN WOULD REQUEST CONSIDERATION DURING THE MEETING OF THE SNMLC. US REP TO THE SNMLC SHOULD BE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH THIS QUESTION SHOULD IT BE BROUGHT UP BY THE GERMAN MEMBER. PEREZ

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